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Economic and Social Council

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Geneva, 4-29 July 2011
Item 1 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Annotated provisional agenda

The present document contains the provisional agenda for the substantive session of 2011 (section I) and the annotations to the provisional agenda (section II).

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Please recycle

I. Provisional agenda

The provisional agenda of the Economic and Social Council for its substantive session of 2011 has been drawn up on the basis of the list of items approved by the Council at its organizational session for 2011 (Council decision 2011/203).

Provisional agenda for the substantive session of 2011

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

High-level segment

2. High-level segment:

   (a) High-level policy dialogue with international financial and trade institutions;

   (b) Annual ministerial review:

   Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to education;

   (c) Thematic discussion:

   Current global and national trends and challenges and their impact on education.

Operational activities segment

3. Operational activities of the United Nations for international development cooperation:

   (a) Follow-up to policy recommendations of the General Assembly and the Council;

   (b) Reports of the Executive Boards of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and the World Food Programme;

   (c) South-South cooperation for development.

Coordination segment

4. The role of the United Nations system in implementing the ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the 2010 substantive session of the Economic and Social Council.

6. Implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits:

   (a) Follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development.

7. Coordination, programme and other questions:

   (a) Reports of coordination bodies;

(e) Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system.

Humanitarian affairs segment

5. Special economic, humanitarian and disaster relief assistance.

General segment

6. Implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits:

   (b) Review and coordination of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010.

7. Coordination, programme and other questions:

   (a) Reports of coordination bodies;

   (b) Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013;

   (c) International cooperation in the field of informatics;

   (d) Long-term programme of support for Haiti;

   (f) African countries emerging from conflict;

   (g) Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS);

   (h) Calendar of conference and meetings in the economic, social and related fields.

8. Implementation of General Assembly resolutions 50/227, 52/12 B, 57/270 B and 60/265.

9. Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations.

10. Regional cooperation:

    [*theme to be decided*]

11. Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan.

12. Non-governmental organizations.

13. Economic and environmental questions:

    (a) Sustainable development;

    (b) Science and technology for development;

    (c) Statistics;

    (d) Human settlements;

    (e) Environment;

    (f) Population and development;

(g) Public administration and development;

(h) International cooperation in tax matters;

(i) United Nations Forum on Forests;

(j) Assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions;

(k) Cartography;

(l) Women and development;

(m) Transport of dangerous goods.

14. Social and human rights questions:

(a) Advancement of women;

(b) Social development;

(c) Crime prevention and criminal justice;

(d) Narcotic drugs;

(e) United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;

(f) Comprehensive implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action;

(g) Human rights;

(h) Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues;

(i) Genetic privacy and non-discrimination.

15. United Nations research and training institutes.

II. Annotations

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

At its organizational session for 2011, the Council approved the provisional agenda for its substantive session (Council decision 2011/203).

Documentation

Annotated provisional agenda for the substantive session of 2011 (E/2011/100)

Proposed programme of work for the substantive session of 2011

Status of documentation for the substantive session of 2011

A. High-level segment

2. High-level segment

(a) High-level policy dialogue with international financial and trade institutions

In accordance with General Assembly resolutions 48/162 and 61/16, the Council will hold a high-level policy dialogue with the executive heads of international financial and trade institutions on current developments in the world economy during its high-level segment.

Documentation

World Economic and Social Survey, 2011 (E/2011/50)

World economic situation and prospects as of mid-2011 (E/2011/73)

(b) Annual ministerial review:

Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to education

Pursuant to paragraph 155 of General Assembly resolution 60/1, entitled "2005 World Summit Outcome", and paragraph 10 of Assembly resolution 61/16, on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council, the Council will have before it the report of the Secretary-General on the theme of the annual ministerial review (Council decision 2008/258). The report will incorporate inputs from a number of relevant United Nations entities and will also provide policy recommendations for consideration by the Council.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to education

(c) Thematic discussion:

Current global and national trends and challenges and their impact on education

Pursuant to paragraphs 155 and 156 of the 2005 World Summit Outcome, the General Assembly, in its resolution 61/16, decided that the Council should continue to promote global dialogue, inter alia, through strengthening existing arrangements, including a thematic discussion on a theme from the economic, social and related fields to be decided by the Council and informed by a report of the Secretary-General.

Pursuant to Council decision 2010/262, the theme for the thematic discussion at its substantive session of 2011 will be "Current global and national trends and challenges and their impact on education".

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on current global and national trends and challenges and their impact on education

Relevant part of the report of the Committee for Development Policy on its thirteenth session (E/2011/33)

Relevant part of the report of the Secretary-General on regional cooperation (E/2011/15 and relevant addenda)

B. Operational activities segment

3. Operational activities of the United Nations for international development cooperation

(a) Follow-up to policy recommendations of the General Assembly and the Council

At its sixty-second session, in its resolution 62/208, the General Assembly:

- In paragraph 93, requested the Secretary-General to report on an annual basis to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session on the functioning of the resident coordinator system, including costs and benefits. In that regard, in paragraph 13 of its resolution 2008/2, the Council requested the Secretary-General, in his annual report on the functioning of the resident coordinator system, to report on the participation and support to the functioning of the resident coordinator system of the United Nations system, including the non-resident agencies, and on progress in enhancing development impact, coherence, effectiveness and efficiency and costs and benefits of coordination through the resident coordinator system, with specific attention to the regional and country levels.

- In paragraph 112, requested the executive boards and governing bodies of the United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies to assess the progress achieved, including costs and benefits, in the area of simplification and harmonization of the United Nations development system at the global, regional and country levels, analyse the potential impacts on development programming and report to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session on an annual basis.

- In paragraph 142, requested the Secretary-General, on the basis of information provided by the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations development system, to submit to the Economic and Social Council, at its substantive sessions of 2009 and 2010, detailed reports on results achieved and measures and processes implemented in follow-up to the resolution on the triennial comprehensive policy review in order to evaluate the implementation of the resolution, with a view to ensuring its full implementation.

At its sixty-third session, the General Assembly:

- In paragraph 17 of its resolution 63/232, requested the Secretary-General to report, in the context of his annual report on the implementation of resolution 62/208, on measures taken to improve the quantity and quality of funding, including feedback from Member States on ways to achieve that objective.

- In paragraph 21 of its resolution 63/311, requested the Secretary-General, in consultation with the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, to regularly inform the Council about progress being made and challenges encountered in the simplification and harmonization of business practices within the United Nations development system and to refer any matter requiring an intergovernmental decision to the relevant intergovernmental bodies.

At its sixty-fourth session, the General Assembly:

- In paragraph 5 of its resolution 64/220, requested the Secretary-General to postpone to its sixty-seventh session the submission, through the Economic and Social Council, of the comprehensive analysis of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 62/208 to be prepared in accordance with the guidance contained in paragraph 143 thereof.

The Council, in paragraph 13 of its resolution 2008/2, requested the Secretary-General, in his annual report on the functioning of the resident coordinator system, to report on the participation and support of the United Nations system, including the non-resident agencies, and on progress in enhancing development impact,

coherence, effectiveness and efficiency and costs and benefits of coordination through the resident coordinator system, with specific attention to the regional and country levels. The Council also requested the Secretary-General, in paragraph 20 of the resolution, to continue to improve the financial reporting of operational activities for development of the United Nations system. The Council further requested the Secretary-General, in paragraph 22 of the resolution, to make every effort to ensure that the information provided in response to paragraph 112 of General Assembly resolution 62/208 would be presented at future sessions of the Economic and Social Council in the form of a report.

The Council, in paragraph 4 of its resolution 2009/1, reiterated the request of the General Assembly to the executive heads of the United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies to continue to report annually to their governing bodies on measures taken and envisaged for the implementation of resolution 62/208. In paragraph 18 of resolution 2009/1, the Council requested the Secretary-General to continue to submit to the Council detailed reports on results achieved and measures and processes implemented, in accordance with paragraph 142 of Assembly resolution 62/208, at its substantive sessions of 2011 and 2012. The Council, in paragraph 27 of the resolution, also requested the Secretary-General to include in his annual reports to the Council on the functioning of the resident coordinator system, information on the operational modalities and the implementation of the management and accountability system of the United Nations development and resident coordinator system, including the functional firewall of the resident coordinator system, and to report on the independent comprehensive assessment thereof to the Council at its substantive session of 2012, within the framework of the comprehensive analysis of implementation of Assembly resolution 62/208.

The Council, in paragraph 4 of its resolution 2010/22, requested the Secretary-General to include in his report to the Council at its substantive session of 2011 information on further progress on an inter-agency collaborative framework on South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation, and on progress in the preparation of the operational guidelines to support the implementation of the Nairobi outcome document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, to be prepared as mandated by the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation at its sixteenth session.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on analysis of the funding of operational activities for development of the United Nations system for 2009[1]

Report of the Secretary-General on the functioning of the resident coordinator system, including costs and benefits

Report of the Secretary-General on the comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system pursuant to General Assembly resolution 62/208

Report of the Secretary-General on simplification and harmonization of business practices of the United Nations development system

[1] Submitted to the General Assembly through the Council.

(b) Reports of the Executive Boards of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund/United Nations Office for Project Services, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and the World Food Programme

The Council will have before it the annual reports of the Executive Boards of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund/United Nations Office for Project Services, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and the World Food Programme (General Assembly resolutions 48/162, annex, 62/208 and 64/289, and Council resolutions 1995/51 and 2010/23).

The Council requested the funds and programmes, through their executive boards, to include in their annual reports to the Council: (a) a section outlining measures taken in the implementation of the provisions of the quadrennial policy review of operational activities; and (b) a section on the activities and measures undertaken within the designated theme of the high-level meeting of the operational activities segment (General Assembly resolutions 62/208, 63/232, and 64/289, and Council resolutions 1994/33 and 2010/23).

The reports include a thorough analysis of problems encountered and lessons learned, with emphasis on issues arising from the implementation of the reform programme of the Secretary-General, the comprehensive policy review and the follow-up to international conferences, so as to allow the Council to fulfil its coordinating role (General Assembly resolution 48/162, annex, Assembly resolutions 53/192 and 62/208 and Council resolutions 1995/51 and 2010/23).

Documentation

Reports of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund/United Nations Office for Project Services on its second regular session of 2010 and on its first regular and annual sessions of 2011 (E/2011/35)

Report to the Council of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund (E/2011/5)

Reports of the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund on the work of its first regular, annual and second regular sessions of 2011; and summary of discussions relevant thereto (E/2011/34 (Part I) and E/2011/34 (Part I)/Add.1)

Annual report to the Council of the Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (E/2011/6)

Report of the Executive Board of the World Food Programme on the first and second regular sessions and annual session of 2010 (E/2011/36)

Annual report of the World Food Programme for 2010 (E/2011/14)

(c) South-South cooperation for development

The seventeenth session of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation will be held in 2012 (see A/65/39, chap. I, decision 16/2). The Council will therefore consider the report of the seventeenth session at its substantive session of 2012.

Documentation

Report of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation (General Assembly resolutions 33/134 and 58/220)[1]

C. Coordination segment

4. The role of the United Nations system in implementing the ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the 2010 substantive session of the Economic and Social Council

The Council, in paragraph 10 of its resolution 2008/29, requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on measures taken to implement the ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the Council for consideration by the Council at the coordination segment of its substantive session of the following year.

The Council, in paragraph 10 of its resolution 2009/29, requested the Secretary-General to prepare, taking into account the views of Member States, a report on the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, in the light of relevant General Assembly resolutions, including resolution 61/16, which should additionally include recommendations on the periodicity of future reports, and to submit the report for consideration at its 2010 substantive session. In its decision 2010/252, the Council took note of the report of the Secretary-General on the role of the Council in that matter (A/65/84-E/2010/90), and decided that the scope and periodicity of future reports of the Secretary-General on the subject should be reviewed in connection with the review by the Assembly of the implementation of resolution 61/16.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the role of the United Nations system in implementing the ministerial declaration of the 2010 substantive session of the Economic and Social Council

6. Implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits

(a) Follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development

The Council's attention is drawn to General Assembly resolution 64/193, in which the Assembly reaffirmed the need for a strengthened and more effective intergovernmental inclusive process to carry out the financing for development follow-up and to review progress in the implementation of commitments, identify obstacles, challenges and emerging issues and propose concrete recommendations and actions, and endorsed, in that regard, the recommendations of the Council as contained in its resolution 2009/30.

In its resolution 2010/26, the Council welcomed the new modalities of the special high-level meeting of the Council with the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, encouraged the President of the Council, in consultation with Member States, to continue to work with the appropriate representatives of the Bretton Woods institutions to improve the agenda and the format of the Council's high-level

meeting, considering innovative approaches conducive, inter alia, to the high-level participation of those institutions, and welcomed the efforts undertaken to give more prominence to the consideration of the agenda item on financing for development during the annual substantive session of the Council, including the allocation of the item to its coordination segment.

In its decision 2010/264, the Council decided to continue its consideration of the draft resolution on the establishment of an ad hoc panel of experts on the world financial and economic crisis and its impact on development (E/2010/L.37), with a view to making final recommendations to the General Assembly, in accordance with the mandate of paragraph 56 (e) of the Outcome of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and its Impact on Development, during its substantive session of 2011.

In its resolution 2010/25, the Council requested the Secretary-General to report to it at its substantive session of 2011 on progress made in implementing the resolution entitled "Recovering from the world financial and economic crisis: a Global Jobs Pact".

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the resolution entitled "Recovering from the world financial and economic crisis: a Global Jobs Pact"

Summary by the President of the Council of the special high-level meeting of the Economic and Social Council with the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development[1]

7. Coordination, programme and other questions

(a) Reports of coordination bodies

The United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination will submit an annual overview report to the Council (Council resolution 13 (III)), which will provide the Council with a summary of the work carried out by the Board machinery in 2010/2011 (Council decision 2001/321).

Documentation

Annual overview report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination for 2010/2011

(e) Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system

At its substantive session of 2010, the Council, in its resolution 2010/29, requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Council at its substantive session of 2011 a detailed report on the efforts and progress made by United Nations entities and on gaps and challenges that they still face in mainstreaming a gender perspective in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of all policies and programmes and in capacity development, and include in the report a section on how UN Women will carry out its work, including by strengthening coordination, identifying areas for improvement and elevating the level of attention given to this cross-cutting issue.

At its sixty-fifth session, the General Assembly, in its resolution 65/191, requested the Secretary-General to continue to report annually to the Assembly under the item entitled "Advancement of women", as well as to the Commission on the Status of Women and the Economic and Social Council, on the follow-up to and progress made in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session, with an assessment of progress in gender mainstreaming, including information on key achievements, lessons learned and good practices, and recommendations on further measures to enhance implementation.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system

D. Humanitarian affairs segment

5. Special economic, humanitarian and disaster relief assistance

At its organizational session for 2011, the Council decided that the theme of the humanitarian affairs segment for its substantive session of 2011 would be "Working in partnership to strengthen coordination of humanitarian assistance in a changing world" (General Assembly resolution 52/12 B and Council decisions 1999/208 and 2011/___).

In its resolution 65/133, the General Assembly requested the Emergency Relief Coordinator to continue her efforts to strengthen the coordination of humanitarian assistance, called upon relevant United Nations organizations and other relevant intergovernmental organizations, as well as other humanitarian and development actors, to continue to work with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat to enhance the coordination, effectiveness and efficiency of humanitarian assistance, and requested the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly at its sixty-sixth session, through the Council at its substantive session of 2011, on progress made in strengthening the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations and to submit a report to the Assembly on the detailed use of the Central Emergency Response Fund (see also Council resolution 2010/1).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations[1]

E. General segment

6. Implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits

The Council, in paragraph 10 of its resolution 2009/29, requested the Secretary-General to prepare, taking into account the views of Member States, a report on the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, in the light of relevant General

Assembly resolutions, including resolution 61/16, which should additionally include recommendations on the periodicity of future reports, and to submit the report for consideration at its substantive session of 2010. In its decision 2010/252, the Council took note of the report of the Secretary-General on the role of the Council in that matter (A/65/84-E/2010/90), and decided that the scope and periodicity of future reports of the Secretary-General on the subject should be reviewed in connection with the review by the Assembly of the implementation of resolution 61/16.

In its decision 1999/212, the Council invited the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to transmit every four years, starting in 1999, a report prepared by the Committee on World Food Security on progress in the implementation of the World Food Summit Plan of Action, highlighting its linkages with the coordinated and integrated follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits undertaken by the United Nations system. In its resolution 65/178, the General Assembly invited the Chair of the Committee on World Food Security to report, as part of the Committee's report to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session, through the Economic and Social Council, on the implementation of the reform of, and on progress made towards achieving the vision of the Committee.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on the progress in the implementation of the World Food Summit Plan of Action, including on the implementation of the reform of and on progress made towards achieving the vision of the Committee on World Food Security (Council decision 1999/212 and General Assembly resolution 65/178)

(a) Follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development

See also under item 6 (a)

(b) Review and coordination of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010

At its substantive session of 2010, the Council, in its resolution 2010/27, requested the Secretary-General to submit a 10-year comprehensive report on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010 to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, identifying, inter alia, lessons learned and best practices as well as structural constraints and handicaps encountered, resource requirements and resource gaps in achieving the set objectives of the Programme of Action.

Documentation

No request for advance documentation

7. Coordination, programme and other questions

(a) Reports of coordination bodies

The United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination will submit an annual overview report to the Council (Council resolution 13 (III)), which will

provide the Council with a summary of the work carried out by the Board machinery in 2010/2011 (Council decision 2001/321).

The report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on its fifty-first session (New York, 6 June-1 July 2010) will include the Committee's views on its consideration of the report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (General Assembly resolution 31/93 and Council resolution 2008 (LX)).

Documentation

Annual overview report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination for 2010/11

Report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on its fifty-first session (A/66/16)

(b) Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013

In accordance with rule 31 of the rules of procedure of the Council, the Secretary-General will circulate the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013 covering activities in the economic, social and human rights fields. The Council will consider the relevant sections of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013 (General Assembly resolution 58/269 and Council resolution 1988/77).

Documentation

Relevant sections of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013 (see relevant fascicles of A/66/6)

(c) International cooperation in the field of informatics

At its substantive session of 2010, the Council, in its resolution 2010/38, requested the President of the Council to convene the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Informatics for one more year to enable it to carry out, from within existing resources, the due fulfilment of the provisions of the Council resolutions on the item, to facilitate the successful implementation of the initiatives being taken by the Secretary-General with regard to the use of information technology and to continue the implementation of measures required to achieve its objectives, and in that regard requested the Working Group to continue its efforts to act as a bridge between the evolving needs of Member States and the actions of the Secretariat, and also requests the Working Group to consider its future role, status and mandate and develop findings in that regard.

In the same resolution, the Council requested the Secretary-General to report to it at its substantive session of 2011 on action taken in follow-up to the resolution, including the findings of the Working Group and an assessment of its work and mandate.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the need to harmonize and improve United Nations informatics systems for optimal utilization and accessibility by all States

(d) Long-term programme of support for Haiti

At its substantive session of 2010, the Council, in its resolution 2010/28, decided to extend the mandate of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti until the substantive session of the Council in 2012, with the purpose of closely following and providing advice on Haiti's long-term development strategy to promote post-disaster socio-economic recovery, stability and reconstruction, with particular attention to the need to ensure coherence and sustainability in international support for Haiti, based on the long-term national development priorities, as contained in the Government's Action Plan for the Reconstruction and National Development of Haiti, and stressed the need to avoid overlap and duplication with respect to existing mechanisms.

The Council, in the same resolution, requested the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti to report on its activities in support of the recovery, reconstruction and development of the country, with recommendations, as appropriate, to the Council for its consideration at its organizational and substantive sessions of 2011.

Documentation

Report of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti

(e) Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system

See also under item 7 (e)

(f) African countries emerging from conflict

Documentation

No request for advance documentation

(g) Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)

At its substantive session of 2009, the Council, in its resolution 2009/6, requested the Secretary-General to transmit to it a report prepared by the Executive Director of the Joint Programme, in collaboration with its co-sponsors and other relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, on progress made in implementing a coordinated response by the United Nations system to the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Executive Director of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)

(h) Calendar of conferences and meetings in the economic, social and related fields

The Council will be required to approve its calendar of conferences and meetings in the economic, social and related fields for 2012 and 2013 (Council decision 52 (LVII) and 1988/103).

Documentation

Draft calendar of conferences and meetings in the economic, social and related fields for 2012 and 2013

8. Implementation of General Assembly resolutions 50/227, 52/12 B, 57/270 B and 60/265

Documentation

No request for advance documentation

9. Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations

Assistance to the Palestinian people. At its sixty-third session, in 1977, the Council requested the Secretary-General to submit to it annual reports on the question of assistance to the Palestinian people (Council resolution 2100 (LXIII)).

Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations. At its sixty-fourth session, the General Assembly, in its resolution 64/99, and the Council, at its substantive session of 2010, in its resolution 2010/30, requested the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and international and regional organizations to examine and review conditions in each Non-Self-Governing Territory so that they might take appropriate measures to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors of those Territories, and also requested the specialized agencies and other organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and regional organizations to strengthen existing measures of support and to formulate appropriate programmes of assistance to the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories, within the framework of their respective mandates, in order to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors of those Territories.

In the same resolutions, the General Assembly requested the Chair of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and the Council requested the President of the Council, to continue to maintain close contact on those matters. The Council also requested the President to report to it thereon. In addition, the Council requested the Secretary-General to follow up on the implementation of the resolution, paying particular attention to cooperation and integration arrangements for maximizing the efficiency of the assistance activities undertaken by various organizations of the United Nations system, and to report thereon to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2011.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on assistance to the Palestinian people[1]

Report of the Secretary-General on support to Non-Self-Governing Territories by the specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations

Report of the President of the Council on consultations held with the Chairman of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

10. Regional cooperation

The Council will consider the report of the Secretary-General on regional cooperation and take the necessary action on the decisions and recommendations of the regional commissions contained therein. The report will bring to the attention of the Council any decisions or recommendations of the regional commissions that statutorily require its approval. The Council will also have before it the summaries of the surveys of regional economic and social conditions prepared by the regional commissions, highlighting the main problems and prospects of those regions (Council decision 1979/1).

The Council will also have before it the report of the Executive Secretaries of the Economic Commission for Africa and the Economic Commission for Europe on the project for a Europe-Africa fixed link through the Strait of Gibraltar (Council resolution 2009/11).

In its decision 2010/265, the Council decided to further defer to its substantive session of 2011 its consideration of the first two draft resolutions contained in chapter I.B of the addendum to the report of the Secretary-General on regional cooperation in the economic, social and related fields (E/2010/15/Add.1).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on regional cooperation (E/2010/5/Add.1, E/2011/5 and addenda)

The economic situation in the Economic Commission for Europe region: Europe, North America and the Commonwealth of Independent States (E/2011/16)

Overview of the economic and social conditions in Africa, 2011 (E/2011/17)

Summary of the *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific, 2011* (E/2011/18)

Latin America and the Caribbean: economic situation and outlook (E/2011/19)

Summary of the survey of economic and social developments in the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia region (E/2011/20)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the reports of the Executive Secretaries of the Economic Commission for Africa and the Economic Commission for Europe on the Europe-Africa fixed link through the Strait of Gibraltar (E/2011/21)

11. Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan

The Council, at its substantive session of 2010, in paragraph 16 of its resolution 2010/31, requested the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session, through the Council, a report on the implementation of the resolution and to continue to include in the report of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General to the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Palestinian Authority an update on the living conditions of the Palestinian people, in collaboration with relevant United Nations agencies.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan[1]

12. Non-governmental organizations

Pursuant to its resolutions 3 (II) and 1996/31 and decision 1995/304, the Council will consider the reports of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations on the work of its 2011 session (New York, 24 January-2 February and 16-24 May 2011) and take action on the recommendations contained therein. The dates of the 2011 sessions of the Committee and its provisional agenda were approved by the Council in its decision 2010/223.

Documentation

Report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations on its 2011 regular session (E/2011/32 (Part I))

Report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations on its resumed 2011 session (E/2011/32 (Part II))

13. Economic and environmental questions

(a) Sustainable development

The Council will have before it the report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its nineteenth session (New York, 2-13 May 2011) (Council decision 1993/207). The provisional agenda for the nineteenth session of the Commission was approved by the Council in its decision 2010/234.

The Council will also have before it the report of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting for the nineteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (New York, 28 February-4 March 2011) (Council resolution 2003/61).

The Council will also have before it the report of the second meeting of the open-ended Preparatory Committee of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (New York, 7 and 8 March 2011) (General Assembly resolution 64/236).

The Council will also have before it the report of the Secretary-General on the review of United Nations support for small island developing States (Council resolution 2010/34).

The Council will also have before it the report of the Committee for Development Policy on its thirteenth session (New York, 21-25 March 2011) (Council resolutions 1079 (XXXIX) and 1998/46).

Documentation

Report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its nineteenth session (E/2011/29)

Report of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting for the nineteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (E/CN.17/IPM/2011/19)

Report of the second session of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (A/CONF.216/PC/9)

Report of the Secretary-General on the review of United Nations support for small island developing States

Report of the Committee for Development Policy on its thirteenth session (E/2011/33)

(b) Science and technology for development

The Council will have before it the report of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on the work of its fourteenth session (Geneva, 23-27 May 2011) (General Assembly resolutions 46/235, annex, and 56/182). The provisional agenda and documentation for the fourteenth session of the Commission was approved by the Council in its decision 2010/229.

The Council will also have before it the report of the Secretary-General on enhanced cooperation on international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet (Council resolution 2010/2).

At its sixtieth session, the General Assembly, in its resolution 60/252, requested the Council to oversee the system-wide follow-up of the Geneva and Tunis outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, namely, the Declaration of Principles and the Plan of Action, and the Tunis Commitment and the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society (see also Council resolution 2006/46). At its sixty-fifth session, in its resolution 65/141, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to it at its sixty-sixth session, through the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and the Economic and Social Council, a report on the status of the implementation of and follow-up to the resolution, as part of his annual reporting on the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels.

In the same resolution, the General Assembly welcomed the decision of the Council, in its resolution 2010/2, to invite the Chair of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development to establish a working group that would seek, compile and review inputs on improvements to the Internet Governance Forum and would make recommendations, as appropriate, to the Commission at its fourteenth session, in a report that would constitute an input from the Commission to the General Assembly, through the Council.

Documentation

Report of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on its fourteenth session (E/2011/31)

Report of the Secretary-General on enhanced cooperation on international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet

Report of the Secretary-General on progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels

Report of the Working Group on improvements to the Internet Governance Forum

(c) Statistics

The Council will have before it the report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-second session (New York, 22-25 February 2011) (Council resolutions 8 (I), 8 (II) and 1566 (L)). The venue and dates as well as the provisional agenda and documentation for the forty-second session of the Commission were approved by the Council in its decision 2010/235.

Documentation

Report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-second session (E/2011/24)

(d) Human settlements

The Council will have before it the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) on its twenty-third session (Nairobi, 11-15 April 2011) (General Assembly resolutions 32/162 and 56/206, and Council resolution 1978/1).[1]

The Council will also have before it the report of the Secretary-General on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda (Council decision 2010/236).[1]

Documentation

Report of Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) on its twenty-third session[1] (A/66/8)

Report of the Secretary-General on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda[1]

(e) Environment

The Council will have before it the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its twenty-sixth session (Nairobi, 21-25 February 2011) (General Assembly resolutions 2997 (XXVII), 53/242 and 65/162).[1]

The Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme reports to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council (Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII), sect. I, para. 3). The Governing Council meets in regular sessions every two years and in special sessions in alternate years (General Assembly resolution 53/242).

Documentation

Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its twenty-sixth session[1] (A/66/25)

(f) Population and development

The Council will have before it the report of the Commission on Population and Development on its forty-fourth session (New York, 11-15 April 2011) (General Assembly resolution 49/128). The provisional agenda and documentation for the forty-fourth session of the Commission was approved by the Council in its decision 2010/238.

Documentation

Report of the Commission on Population and Development on its forty-fourth session (E/2011/25)

(g) Public administration and development

The Council will have before it the report of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration on its tenth session (New York, 4-8 April 2011) (Council resolutions 2001/45 and 2003/60). The venue, dates and provisional agenda for the tenth session of the Committee was approved by the Council in its decision 2010/239.

Documentation

Report of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration on its tenth session (E/2011/44)

(h) International cooperation in tax matters

The Council will have before it the report of the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters on its sixth session (Geneva, 18-22 October 2010) (Council resolution 2004/69). The venue, dates and provisional agenda for the sixth session of the Committee was approved by the Council in its decision 2010/257.

Documentation

Report of the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters on its sixth session (E/2010/45)

(i) United Nations Forum on Forests

The Council will have before it the report of the United Nations Forum on Forests on its ninth session (New York, 24 January-4 February 2011) (Council resolution 2004/49). The dates and venue as well as the provisional agenda for the ninth session of the Forum were approved by the Council in its decisions 2009/241 and 2009/242.

Documentation

Report of the United Nations Forum on Forests on its ninth session (E/2011/42)

(j) Assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions

Documentation

No request for advance documentation

(k) Cartography

The Council will have before it the report of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names on its twenty-sixth session (Vienna, 2-6 May 2011) (Council resolutions 715 A (XXVII) and 1314 (XLIV) and Council decision 2009/269).

The Council also requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Council at its substantive session of 2011 a report on global geographic information management (Council decision 2010/240).

Documentation

Report of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names on its twenty-sixth session

Report of the Secretary-General on global geographic information management

(l) Women and development

The Council will have before it relevant sections of the report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its fifty-fifth session (New York, 22 February-4 March and 14 March 2011) (General Assembly resolution 42/178 and Council resolution 1987/24) (see also under items 7 (e) and 14 (a)).

Documentation

Relevant sections of the report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its fifty-fifth session (E/2011/27) (see also under items 7 (e) and 14 (a))

(m) Transport of dangerous goods

The Council will have before it the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (Council resolutions 645 G (XXIII) and 2009/19).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals

14. Social and human rights questions

(a) Advancement of women

The Council will have before it the report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its fifty-fifth session (New York, 22 February-4 March and 14 March 2011) (Council resolutions 11 (II) and 1147 (XLI)). The provisional agenda for the fifty-fifth session of the Commission was approved by the Council in its decision 2010/233.

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (General Assembly resolution 34/180, annex). Under article 21 of the Convention, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women shall report annually on its activities to the General Assembly through the Council and may make suggestions and general recommendations based on the examination of reports and information received from the States parties to the Convention.

Documentation

Report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its fifty-fifth session (E/2011/27) (see also under items 7 (e) and 13 (l))

Note by the Secretariat transmitting the outcomes of the 2010-2011 sessions of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women[1]

(b) Social development

The Council will have before it the report of the Commission for Social Development on its forty-ninth session (New York, 9-18 February 2011) (Council resolutions 10 (III) and 1996/7). The provisional agenda and documentation for the forty-ninth session of the Commission was approved by the Council in its decision 2010/242.

The Council will also have before it the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth (Council decisions 2009/244 and 2010/242).

At its sixty-fourth session, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit a report to it at its sixty-sixth session, through the Commission for Social Development at its forty-ninth session and the Economic and Social Council, on the follow-up to the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family and beyond and on the appropriate ways and means to observe the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family, in 2014 (Assembly resolution 64/133).

Documentation

Report of the Commission for Social Development on its forty-ninth session (E/2011/26)

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth

Report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family and beyond

(c) Crime prevention and criminal justice

The Council will have before it the report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on its reconvened nineteenth session (Vienna, 3 December 2010) (Council resolution 1992/1 and Council decision 2009/246).

The Council will also have before it the report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on its twentieth session (Vienna, 11-15 April 2011) (Council resolution 1992/1). The provisional agenda and documentation for the twentieth session of the Commission were approved by the Council in its decision 2010/243.

Documentation

Report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on its reconvened nineteenth session (E/2010/30/Add.1)

Report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on its twentieth session (E/2011/30)

(d) Narcotic drugs

The Council will have before it the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its reconvened fifty-third session (Vienna, 2 December 2010) (Council resolution 9 (I) and Council decision 2009/248).

The Council will also have before it the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its fifty-fourth session (Vienna, 21-25 March 2011) (Council resolution 9 (I)). The provisional agenda and documentation for the fifty-fourth session of the Commission were approved by the Council in its decision 2010/244.

Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2010. In accordance with article 15, paragraph 1, of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961, article 18, paragraph 1, of the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances and article 23, paragraph 1, of the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, the Board will report to the Council, through the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, on its work for 2010.

Documentation

Report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its reconvened fifty-third session (E/2010/28/Add.1)

Report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its fifty-fourth session (E/2011/28)

Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2010 (E/INCB/2010/1)

(e) United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

At its fifty-eighth session, the General Assembly decided that the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees should make an annual oral report to the Council to keep it informed of the coordination aspects of the work of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and should continue the existing practice, as established in paragraph 11 of its statute (Assembly resolution 428 (V), annex), of presenting an annual written report to the Assembly (Assembly resolution 58/153).

Documentation

Oral report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

(f) Comprehensive implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

Documentation

No advance documentation has been requested

(g) Human rights

The Council will have before it the report of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on its 2010 sessions (Geneva, 3-21 May 2010 and 1-19 November 2010) (Council resolutions 1988 (LX), 1985/17 and 1995/39).

The Council requested the Chair of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to report to the Council at its substantive session in July 2011 on the

steps taken by the Committee to improve its efficiency in order to allow the Council to make a decision on means to address the Committee's backlog of State party reports, including, if necessary, through the granting of additional time as a temporary measure (Council resolution 2010/37).

The Council will also have before it the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (General Assembly resolution 48/141).[1]

Documentation

Report of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on its forty-fourth and forty-fifth sessions (E/2011/22)

Report of the Chair of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on the steps taken by the Committee to improve its efficiency

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights[1]

(h) Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

The Council will have before it the report of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues on its tenth session (New York, 16-27 May 2011) (Council resolution 2000/22). The venue, dates and the provisional agenda for the tenth session of the Forum were approved by the Council in its decisions 2010/249 and 2010/250.

Documentation

Report of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues on its tenth session (E/2011/43)

(i) Genetic privacy and non-discrimination

At its substantive session of 2010, the Council decided to defer its consideration of genetic privacy and non-discrimination until its substantive session of 2011 so as to benefit from further, more substantive information collected from Member States, from the results of analysis by the Inter-Agency Committee on Bioethics and from further exchanges among United Nations agencies and other intergovernmental organizations on the issue; also decided to encourage the Inter-Agency Committee to further its work in that field; and requested the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to report thereon to the Council at its substantive session of 2011 (Council decision 2010/259).

Documentation

Report of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on genetic privacy and non-discrimination

15. United Nations research and training institutes

At its sixtieth session, the General Assembly decided that article IV, paragraph 5, of the statute of the Staff College should be amended so that the biennial reports on the activities of the College would be submitted to the Council rather than to the Assembly (General Assembly resolution 60/214).

At its sixty-first session, the General Assembly decided that the report of the Council of the United Nations University and other reports on the work of the University should be submitted biennially to the Council, rather than to the Assembly for its consideration, beginning in 2009 (General Assembly resolution 61/216).

At its sixty-second session, the General Assembly decided to streamline the reporting arrangements of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research through (a) consolidation of the reports of the Secretary-General and the Executive Director of the Institute; (b) submission of the new consolidated report of the Secretary-General to the Council rather than to the Assembly; and (c) establishment of a biennial reporting cycle starting from 2009 (General Assembly resolution 62/210).

Documentation

Report of the Director of the United Nations System Staff College on the activities of the College

Report of the Council of the United Nations University on the work of the University

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Institute for Training and Research

United Nations E/2011/101

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Item 7 (c) of the provisional agenda*
Coordination, programme and other questions: international cooperation in the field of informatics

International cooperation in the field of informatics

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report was prepared pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 2010/38, in which the President of the Council was requested to convene the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Informatics for one more year to enable it to continue its efforts to act as a bridge with regard to information technology between the evolving needs of Member States and the actions of the Secretariat.

The report highlights the continuing cooperation of the Working Group and the Secretariat, which has resulted in practical enhancements in the area of information and communications technology that facilitate the work of Member States and observers of the United Nations, as well as that of the non-governmental organizations accredited to the United Nations.

* See E/2011/100.

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I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 2010/38, the Economic and Social Council requested its President to convene the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Informatics for one more year to enable it to carry out, from within existing resources, the due fulfilment of the provisions of its resolutions on international cooperation in the field of informatics, to facilitate the successful implementation of the initiatives being taken by the Secretary-General with regard to the use of information technology and to continue the implementation of measures required to achieve its objectives.

2. In paragraph 2 of its resolution 2010/38 the Economic and Social Council requested the Working Group to continue its efforts to act as a bridge between the evolving needs of Member States and the actions of the Secretariat. The Working Group has continued to collaborate closely with the Secretariat to direct its existing resources in practical ways that best meet the needs of Member States, observers and non-governmental organizations with regard to the everyday use of information and communications technology (ICT) in accomplishing the work of the diplomatic community associated with the United Nations. The Working Group will continue to examine and discuss its role, status and mandate in 2011, and will reflect any resulting findings in its next report.

3. The Office of Information and Communications Technology, established in January 2009, is responsible for the development and implementation of the Secretariat-wide ICT strategy, in close cooperation with ICT governance groups, including the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Informatics.

II. Cooperation between the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Informatics and the Secretariat

4. During the period 2010-2011, the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Informatics and the Secretariat have maintained effective cooperation. The Office of Information and Communications Technology has facilitated the meetings of the Working Group and provided regular updates on the implementation of ICT strategic programmes of the Secretariat.

5. The Secretariat and the Working Group continue to expand their efforts with regard to website tools and maintain a shared responsibility for the creation and maintenance of web pages and document updates.

6. With the guidance of the Working Group, the Secretariat has continued to expand its efforts to more fully utilize collaboration tools to meet the needs of the General Assembly Committees. For example, CandiWeb has been successfully utilized to support election processes for United Nations organs.

7. The deleGATE website (www.un.int), developed through a joint effort by the Office of Information and Communications Technology and the Department of Public Information, provides content in English and French from the Secretariat's Intranet site iSeek, as well as links to other information created especially for delegates, and is accessed approximately 30,000 times per month on average. In coordination with the Office and the Department of Management, the Department of Public Information also looked into finding ways in which to share information with Member States about the status of their financial contributions.

III. ICT connectivity and access

8. The Office of Information and Communications Technology maintains Wi-Fi connectivity and dedicated Internet access points for delegates throughout the public areas and conference rooms of the New York campus. Plans to adjust Wi-Fi coverage will be made throughout activities related to the capital master plan in order to maintain continuity of connectivity during meetings, conferences and events, as well as to maintain access to resources and tools such as CandiWeb and the Member States portal.

IV. Information and communications technology services

9. The Office of Information and Communications Technology provides website hosting services and a standard web content management system for 62 permanent missions. These systems streamline procedures and provide an easy-to-use interface including permanent mission websites to update and maintain their content, while providing enhanced information security.

10. The Office continues to provide e-mail services to permanent missions by supporting approximately 1,200 e-mail accounts on four dedicated servers running the standard system (Lotus Notes) used at Headquarters. The e-mail system is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and is backed up daily. All e-mail messages are scanned for viruses, malicious software and unsolicited mail. The support of the Service Desk is available during normal office hours.

11. The Office of Information and Communications Technology continues to support the Internet Café for delegates (ICT Resource Centre), located on the second floor of the North Lawn Conference Building. The Internet Café has 18 personal computers, which have been configured with Internet access, Adobe Reader and Microsoft Office 2003 to enable delegates to read and edit documents compatible with Microsoft Office file formats.

12. In the course of 2010, the Office of Information and Communications Technology, in collaboration with the Department of Public Information and the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, enhanced and fully implemented the Google Search engine for the Official Document System (ODS). A new interface has been deployed to permit advanced full-text and metadata searches of all ODS documents in the six official languages. This initiative is a step in the right direction for turning the Secretariat into an e-organization. Information will increasingly be made available electronically, rather than through printed documents, which not only conserves paper, ink and energy, but also facilitates the dissemination, storage and retrieval of information. The search function of the new ODS is a veritable revolution brought about through a joint effort by multiple organizational units of the Secretariat.

13. The Department for General Assembly and Conference Management and the Office of Information and Communications Technology advocate converting printed documentation to digital format, which makes it easier and faster for staff and delegates to disseminate, store and retrieve information. In 2010, the Department launched the e-Subscription portal http://undocs.org to meet the need of Member States to learn immediately about the release of any document on ODS that is relevant to their national interests or to any cause that they have supported in the

United Nations. The e-Subscription solution extends the capabilities of ODS by automatically e-mailing a link to any newly released document that meets the user's selection criteria. In addition, the Department has developed simplified online access by making it possible to add a United Nations official document symbol to the URL http://undocs.org. For example, typing "undocs.org/A/62/793" in a Web browser will allow a user to bypass the additional ODS-related search steps, permitting immediate access to the specific General Assembly document. Similarly, in order to find a particular Security Council resolution, a user need only type "undocs.org/S/RES/1969(2011)".

V. Training, support and awareness

14. The Working Group continues its focus on promoting awareness of its activities and is gradually placing the results of its efforts online. Telephone directories and the guide to Internet services for delegations have been updated and incorporated into the Member States portal, deleGATE.

15. The Working Group and the Secretariat continue to explore the idea of establishing a forum in which the diplomatic community and the Secretariat can exchange information and views concerning the use of ICT in the Secretariat, including strategies and initiatives, as an extension of the Working Group's focus on awareness, and to serve as an additional bridge between Member States and the Secretariat in this area.

16. In April 2010, the DiploFoundation E-diplomacy Initiative was launched at the United Nations in New York. The meeting on e-diplomacy was facilitated by the permanent missions of Malta and Switzerland. Mr. Jovan Kurbalija, Director of DiploFoundation, provided a framework for discussion through his presentation on "e-diplomats at work". The senior managers of the Office of Information and Communications Technology, the Department of Public Information and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs briefed United Nations diplomats on Secretariat activities and ICT projects concerning the relevance of e-diplomacy. In addition, Mr. Choi Soon-hong, Assistant Secretary-General and Chief Information Technology Officer, participated in the International Conference on E-diplomacy, held in Malta in June 2010.

17. The Dag Hammarskjöld Library continues to enhance its programmes for training in the management and use of United Nations documentation, as well as in the use of United Nations and external online databases and resources. Delegations have taken advantage of personalized coaching sessions and customized group programmes within the scope of the personal knowledge management initiative, which provides assistance regarding the use of information-handling tools and resources.

18. In collaboration with various partners, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) offers a wide range of online courses, some in French and Spanish, including multilateral diplomacy; training for peacekeepers in the predeployment stage; public finance and trade; and environmental law. Now using the Internet as a training medium, the Multilateral Diplomacy Programme brings participants and trainers together in a unique virtual learning environment. All courses build on the Institute's wealth of experience in designing and implementing training workshops on diplomacy and multilateral affairs at the

country and regional levels. In New York, the Institute offers courses on basic ICT skills to delegates through its Continued Information Technology Education Programme.

19. The Secretariat provides technical support through the Office of Information and Communications Technology Service Desk when problems arise with any of the provided services or infrastructure. In 2010, the Service Desk handled more than 700 ICT-related requests of permanent missions, including requests for, inter alia, CandiWeb, e-mail accounts, website support and network connectivity.

20. The Office of Information and Communications Technology continues to refurbish surplus personal computers and peripheral devices and provides them to permanent missions, under the overall guidance of the Working Group. Statistics on computing equipment donated to permanent missions in 2010 are contained in the annex to the present report.

Annex

Computer equipment given to permanent missions in 2010

Equipment type	*Number*
Central processing units	802
Monitors	582
Printers	302
Other devices	456
Total	**2 142**